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Message Text

SECRET

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70
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:WILLIAM C. SHERMAN:BB
APPROVED BY EA - ARTHUR W. HUMMEL
P - PCHABIB (SUBSTANCE)
EUR/SOV - JGLASSMAN
S/S - PSBRIDGES
---------- 061641
O 292149Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 242301

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, JA, UR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN KOSAKA RE
MIG-25

1. KOSAKA RAISED MIG-25 ISSUE WITH SECRETARY AT BREAKFAST MEETING 29 SEPT, POINTING OUT THAT HE HAD UNPLEASANT MEETING WITH GROMYKO PREVIOUS DAY. KOSAKA SAID HE HAD FLATLY REJECTED GROMYKO'S ALLEGATIONS THAT JAPAN HAD COLLUDED WITH US IN STAGE MANAGING BELENKO'S DEFECTION AGAINST HIS WILL OR THAT JAPAN WAS BEHAVING IN UNFRIENDLY MANNER TOWARD USSR. GROMYKO PRESSED HARD HOWEVER. KOSAKA SAID HE BELIEVED THAT WHETHER AIRCRAFT WAS RETURNED PROMPTLY OR NOT, HE EXPECTED SOVIETS TO BEGIN RETALIATORY TACTICS AGAINST JAPAN SUCH AS STEPPING UP CAPTURE OF JAPANESE FISHING BOATS, SUSPENSION OF PERIODIC JAPAN/USSR FOREIGN MINISTER MEETINGS, AND PUBLIC POSTPONEMENT OF LONG PLANNED VISIT BY SENIOR SOVIET LEADERSHIP TO JAPAN.

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2. SECRETARY SAID HE BELIEVED THAT WHAT DAMAGE WOULD BE

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DONE TO JAPAN - SOVIET RELATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE. SOVIET ATTITUDES WOULD NOT BE IMPROVED BY JAPANESE NERVOUSNESS, AND IF THE PLANE WERE TO BE KEPT FOR A WEEK OR SO LONGER IT WOULD HAVE NO REAL EFFECT ON SOVIET PLANS. HE DOUBTED THAT IN ANY CASE SOVIET LEADERS WOULD VISIT

JAPAN BEFORE JAPANESE YEAR-END ELECTIONS. SECRETARY SAID IN HIS OPINION GOJ MIGHT HAVE A FEW DIFFICULT WEEKS, BUT THAT BY END OF YEAR, IF JAPAN DID NOT SHOW ANY NERVOUSNESS, INCIDENT WOULD HAVE COME BACK INTO PROPORTION.

3. SECRETARY THEN SAID THAT FULL EXPLOITATION OF INTELLIGENCE VALUE OF AIRCRAFT WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US, AND, WHILE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR WHAT JAPAN HAD DONE ALREADY, ASKED THAT GOJ CONTINUE TO GIVE ACCESS TO US TECHNICAL EVALUATION TEAM FOR ONE MORE WEEK BEYOND OCTOBER 3 DATE WE PRESENTLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE CUT-OFF, I.E. UNTIL OCTOBER 10.

4. KOSAKA NOTED THAT IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH GROMYKO HE HAD FOR THE FIRST TIME GONE ON RECORD AS PROMISING TO RETURN THE AIRCRAFT QTE IN THE NEAR FUTURE UNQTE. HOWEVER, HE HAD NOT SPECIFIED DATE, PLACE, OR MEANS OF RETURN. HE AGREED TO STUDY SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL AND GIVE IT FULL CONSIDERATION.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW UP AND SUPPORT SECRETARY'S DEMARCHE WITH FONOFF, JDA AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AT HIGHEST FEASIBLE LEVELS. ROBINSON

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